

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATE/FEDERAL FISHERIES
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Crowne Plaza Hotel - Old Town
Alexandria, Virginia
May 1, 2012

Approved August 2012

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1. **Approval of Agenda by Consent** (Page 1).
2. **Approval of Proceedings of February 9, 2012 by Consent** (Page 1).
3. **Move to accept the Black Drum Public Information Document and begin to schedule public comment meetings** (Page 2). Motion by Mr. Roy Miller; second by Mr. Tom O'Connell. Motion carried (Page 2).
4. **Move to accept the Spanish Mackerel implementation plans (Page 2)**. Motion by Mr. Spud Woodward; second by A.C. Carpenter. Motion carried (Page 2).
5. **Adjourn by Consent** (Page 4).

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Russ Allen, NJ, proxy for D. Chanda (AA)	Louis Daniel, NC DNR (AA)
Tom Fote, NJ (GA)	Robert H. Boyles, Jr., SC (LA)
Adam Nowalsky, NJ, proxy for Asm. Albano (LA)	Spud Woodward, GA (AA)
John Clark, DE, proxy for D. Saveikis (AA)	John Duren, GA (LA)
Roy Miller, DE (GA)	Aaron Podey, FL (AA)
Bernie Pankowski, DE, proxy for Sen. Venables (LA)	Jack McGovern, NMFS
Russell Dize, MD, proxy for Sen. Colburn (LA)	Wilson Laney, USFWS
Tom O'Connell, MD (AA)	A.C. Carpenter, PRFC
Bill Goldsborough, MD (GA)	

(AA = Administrative Appointee; GA = Governor Appointee; LA = Legislative Appointee)

Ex-Officio Members

Bill Windley, Advisory Panel Chair

Staff

Vince O'Shea
Bob Beal

Danielle Chesky
Toni Kerns

Guests

Daniel Ryan, DC F & W
Rob O'Reilly, VA DMR

The South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened in the Presidential Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia, May 1, 2012, and was called to order at 3:15 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Louis Daniel.

CALL TO ORDER

CHAIRMAN LOUIS DANIEL: I am going to call the South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board to order. I'm Louis Daniel; I'm the Chairman of the South Atlantic Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & PROCEEDINGS OF FEBRUARY 9, 2012

You should have an agenda and all of the appropriate meeting handouts available. If you'll look over the agenda, we have our agenda and our minutes from our February 9th meeting.

If there are no corrections to the minutes or any additions to the agenda, I would accept them as approved by consensus. Seeing no changes or corrections, so ordered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The next item on the agenda is public comment for items that are not on our agenda. Is there anyone in the public that wishes to address the board at this time? Seeing no hands, we will have no public comment.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The next item on our agenda is to elect a vice-chair. Mr. Duren.

MR. JOHN DUREN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to nominate our distinguished colleague, Aaron Poday, as vice-chairman.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you, John. Pat Augustine is not here and I don't know what to do. (Laughter) We have a second from Dr. Rhodes. There could not possibly be any objection so congratulations, Aaron, and thank you for agreeing to do it. It's a great board to work with.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MODIFIED BLACK DRUM PUBLIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The first real action item we have to consider approval of our modified black drum public information document so that we can go out for

public comment. Danielle will run us through that document.

MS. DANIELLE CHESKY: This is the Black Drum Public Information Document. To give you an update, our current timeline that we had presented back in February is still on schedule. We had planned the spring/summer to prepare the PID and then send it out for public comment. As of right now we're still on schedule for around the fall of 2013 for review and final approval of a fishery management plan, if needed.

At the February meeting the board requested a few edits to be made to enhance the public information document and make it easier for the public to understand the current situation that we know of black drum and the reasoning behind why the board is considering creating a fishery management plan.

These include specific information on the sizes and age they're being caught. There are concerns that needed to try to show whether or not juveniles or adults were being targeted. Additionally, information was requested to be included on the interjurisdictional movement, so why this should more of an interstate fishery management plan versus single states; and then also to display some of the indices regarding the current population status.

We included quite a few data sets regarding the distribution of the fishery in terms of the sizes that are caught. It ranged from recreational and commercial harvest to some biological sampling programs, going from Delaware all the way down to Florida. To give the board an idea of what we have included and what can be done with that; for example, North Carolina's distribution of the sizes are displayed here with the commercial and recreational.

Using some of the information that the working group had gathered regarding size at maturity, we can add certain lines to it that can show where those 50 percent maturity levels might be. I think if we interpreted correctly what the board was trying to get at in terms of displaying where the fishery is; and so comparing North Carolina, let's say, to next one to be Delaware in terms of the size distributions of the fishery and where they are in terms of that maturity level.

Additionally, we included quite a bit of tagging data. We used some that was collected down in Georgia back in 1984. This was a particular study that showed quite a bit of local movement as well as some very long-distance movement. Similar information

was included also from Virginia, Maryland and South Carolina that had been gathered by the working group.

These include certain charts for Virginia showing quite a bit of the returns come within Virginia waters but that it is also spread out among the neighboring states as well. Additionally, we included quite a few graphs regarding population status. We included the recreational and commercial harvest for all the states on the board, New Jersey to Florida.

In addition we included some fishery-independent survey indices as well as some fishery dependent ones, and those again range along the geographic span of this board and the fishery. For example, we've got the Maryland charterboat CPUE in addition to South Carolina, just to show you for an example and Georgia.

The indices all have their own story to tell and I think that was the message from the board to put the indices out there and let the public see and make some judgments on them. In terms of the reasons for developing the FMP, those have stayed the same from what you've seen in February. We added additional text to support the charts and graphs and additional information that we included, but our original reasons have remained the same in terms of going after consistent coast-wide management, having a framework ready to implement management measures and to be able to confront issues that may face the fishery now or in the future.

A lot of the key questions have remained the same in terms of information being solicited from the public; in terms of objectives for the management program; the current health of the population; what trends individuals are seeing in the fishery; habitat issues; and also monitoring measures. Again, it's still the same question within it; how would you like the black drum fishery to look in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: And through the review I think we can see that all of our questions, concerns and requests were addressed by staff on the PID. Are there any questions for Danielle on the message that we're sending forward for comment? **Seeing none, I would accept a motion to accept PID and begin to schedule public comment meetings.** Motion by Mr. Miller; second by Mr. O'Connell. Is there any discussion on the motion? Is there any objection to the motion? **Seeing none, the motion carries.**

MS. CHESKY: May I ask are there any states that know right now that they would like to have a public

hearing in their state; North Carolina, South Carolina, Delaware, Maryland.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE SPANISH MACKEREL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, the next item on our agenda is to review and approve the Spanish Mackerel Implementation Plan. This should be an easy one. Danielle.

MS. CHESKY: Mr. Chairman, we received all of the states implementation plans for Spanish mackerel. The plan development team from the Omnibus Amendment as well as the Spanish Mackerel Plan Review Team recommended that all of them be approved. They saw no issues with the current plans being able to implement the objectives and requirements.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Any questions or comments on the implementation plans. It sounds like everybody is doing what they're supposed to do. **I would accept a motion to accept the implementation plans from Mr. Woodward and a second by A.C. Carpenter.** Discussion on that motion? Is there any objection to the motion? **Seeing none, that motion carries.**

POPULATION OF BLACK DRUM STOCK ASSESSMENT SUBCOMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: The next item, if you'll look in your materials, we are populating a Black Drum Stock Assessment Subcommittee and Technical Committee. There is a memo to the board from Danielle. At present we have membership from New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. That probably would suffice.

I have had a discussion with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Right now since that's primarily an in-state waters fishery, if we need somebody we can request it, but at the present time they're not going to offer up anybody on the Black Drum Plan, and I told them I thought that was fine.

I will need a motion, if everyone agrees, **that our stock assessment subcommittee for black drum includes Scott Newlin from Delaware, Renee Hoover from Virginia, Ray Mroch from North**

Carolina, Chris McDonough from South Carolina and Dave Chagaris from Florida. Are there any others? Okay, Danielle.

MS. CHESKY: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to give the board a quick update. The Assessment Science Committee met back in March to review the current stock assessment schedule. I wanted to pass along – it is part of the Assessment Science Committee Report, but the current schedule is quite packed from 2013 to 2015. The plan right now is that the Black Drum Stock Assessment will be begin and move forward, but I just wanted to pass along the heads up that the schedule for it might slip six to twelve months, just depending upon the workload of staff and individuals. Thank you.

MR. O'REILLY: I heard most of that, Danielle, but I also read where the schedule will be for weakfish and black drum concurrently; is that part of what you're indicating?

MS. CHESKY: Yes, that has been something that has been discussed due to the similarities of the species and the potential timing that might work out to put them together.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is there any objection to the stock assessment subcommittee names that I mentioned going forward as our stock assessment subcommittee? **Okay, with no objection that will be our stock assessment subcommittee for black drum. The item is we are populating our South Atlantic Advisory Panel, and it says names in bold.** Clarify that for us, if you will.

MS. CHESKY: Sorry for the confusion. The South Atlantic Advisory Panel was created obviously prior to the board considering management for black drum. Tina has helped me provide a list to the board of our current South Atlantic Advisory Panel members and their noted expertise that was on the nomination forms. Staff is just requesting that the board review that list and see if there needs to be any additions made and to make sure that there is sufficient black drum expertise or experience on the advisory panel.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So we don't to take any action if everyone is comfortable with the names on the list. We've got a lot sciaenid expertise and a lot of folks are probably familiar with the black drum fishery. Is there any interest in trying to beat the bushes for more black drum expertise on our advisory panel? Wilson.

DR. WILSON LANEY: Mr. Chairman, there are only two people on there who have listed black drum,

and I note for at least case of North Carolina we've got Jimmie Ruhle on there and we don't have any recreational representation. I just wanted to ask Danielle is the normal procedure here to have like a couple of folks from each jurisdiction. I presume that this would remain open and we could bring names for consideration at the next meeting as well.

MS. TINA BERGER: I don't think we're looking for two more folks with black drum expertise, if that is what you were asking, but we are looking for additional folks. If there are people that you would like to put on, at the next board meeting we can have them approved.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, we don't have a recreational person from North Carolina so we need to be looking for that, but I don't know many black fisheries' experts unless they're in Virginia or Delaware and the guys out of the Cape Charles Fishing Center or some of those places. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: Well, I was thinking, Louis, of maybe some of those folks down in the Cape Fear who target those big black drum in the Lower Cape Fear might be that we could recruit somebody out of that group of folks.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, I wouldn't even begin to know who they are, but we can try and I will announce next week at our North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting and maybe get a commissioner interested in doing it. Bill.

MR. BILL WINDLEY: Do we know clearly that the people on the list are still active because we haven't met in a long, long time?

MS. CHESKY: We don't know yet but we will be meeting soon so we can work on that as well and get feedback back to the board in terms of who is active and who wants to remain active as well, if that would be helpful.

MR. WINDLEY: Would you let me know when you come up that?

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We will. Anything else on that topic? If not, I believe Melissa has got a presentation.

SEAMAP FUNDING UPDATE FOR 2012

MS. MELISSA PAINE: I just have a funding update on the SEAMAP Program for Fiscal Year 2012. In your briefing book you received a summary on that funding situation. The whole SEAMAP Program

will have a 3.9 percent decrease in their funding from what they received last year.

You can see in that same document the allocation that the SEAMAP South Atlantic Committee gave to its various projects, and that would have been if they had received the level funding. That committee will be meeting in a couple of weeks to discuss how to deal with that 3.9 percent decrease in their funding situation.

I just also wanted to note just on other updates on the SEAMAP Program, the long-running coastal survey continues to collect age and growth samples of weakfish, croaker and southern kingfish. Since 2011 they also added age, growth and diet sampling of bluefish, Spanish and king mackerel.

They're also continuing work on their SEAMAP Reef Fish Survey which is in collaboration with the MARMAP Program, and that program has exhibited or will have a 40 percent reduction in their budget this year, so there will be some discussion on how to revise that component of the SEAMAP work to help them out with that reduction in their funding.

The other thing to note is that the SEAMAP South Atlantic has been working really hard on getting their data base online and that will actually happen by the end of this month, so we should be able to have that data base accessible online, and that is through the South Carolina DNR Website. I can send a link out to the group once that is available. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Any questions on SEAMAP funding? If we find that we have an extra hundred grand laying around that can help the bridge net survey in Beaufort, that would be a good add-on to the SEAMAP Program, I think. It would be something for us to discuss if that opportunity arises, but they're dealing with essentially the same species and that would be a neat opportunity, perhaps.

MS. PAINE: We actually have that written into the SEAMAP five-year management plan; that if there were an increase in funding that we might be able to support the bridge net sampling.

OTHER BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: That's excellent; and we approved that? Cool, good, we've already done it. All right, any other business to come before the South Atlantic Board. Wilson.

DR. LANEY: Just really quickly, Mr. Chairman, I'll mention the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise has been sort of under the auspices of SEAMAP in the past. Even though it hasn't directly received SEAMAP funding, it is still considered I think under that umbrella. I'll just remind everybody we did secure funding from the North Carolina Coastal Recreational Fishing License Program to conduct that project next January.

That is fully funded to the tune of \$238,000; but for 2014 and 2015 the committee challenged us to find a match and indicated they would be willing to ante up half of the funding if we find the other half. So given that is state dollars, I'm going to talk to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation folks and see if they would be willing to consider a federal match if we're eligible for any their programs.

Failing in that, then perhaps the National Marine Fisheries Service would consider participating in the program once again; and failing in that, then I'll be coming back to you at some future meeting saying, hey, we've got half the funding; now where can we find the other half? Just a heads up on that for the future.

ADJOURNMENT

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, please give; give often and generously. Anything else for the South Atlantic Board? If not, we will stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 o'clock, May 1, 2012.)